

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
CONTENTIOUS POLITICS: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS,  
POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND REVOLUTION

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Civil war	Relative deprivation
Contentious politics	Security dilemma
Political opportunity structure	Social movements
Political revolution	Social revolution
Political violence	Terrorism

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. How and why are people mobilized to participate in contentious politics?
2. How do social movements and other forms of contentious politics function?
3. If Steve Brown is correct and the capitol riot was *not* a dress rehearsal for a coup d'etat, what does he think it was and do you agree with his assessment?
4. What effects do contentious politics have on governments and policies?
5. Pape and Ruby suggest that the capitol rioters are not who we might think they are. What is their analysis of the participants and are you surprised in any way by their findings? What do you think it means?
6. Craig Brown notes with regard to the Tunisian uprising 10 years ago that "Tunisian youths are outraged and exasperated. Accounts of their protests tend to focus on the riots, while failing to identify the underlying issues." What are those underlying issues and why in your opinion have they not been addressed.
7. What is the "Extinction Rebellion" and do you see them as a legitimate social movement? Why has this movement avoided political violence and do agree that this is the proper strategy?
8. What is the relationship between social movements and social rebellion and do you agree with the author that "[t]he lesson from the streets of Brazil, Turkey, and the Arab world is to avoid underestimating social movements still in their infancy"?
9. What effects have globalization and the advent of Internet-based communications and social media had on contentious politics?
10. Why does contentious politics sometimes turn violent and take forms of terrorism, civil war, or revolution?

**Readings:**

Orvis / Drogus – Chapter 7

**Video:**

*American Insurrection.*